

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 SWF-02

AID-20 AGR-20 NSC-07 TRSE-00 INT-08 FEA-02 L-03 DRC-01

/125 W

----- 070652

R 281330Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 385

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 1358

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BC, ZA

SUBJ: ALASKA INTERNATIONAL AIR SUSPENDS BOTSWANA-ZAMBIA SUPPORT

REF: GABORONE 833

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL ALASKA INTERNATIONAL AIR REP, ZAMBIA COLD STORAGE BOARD (ZCSB) CEASED IMPORTING BEEF FROM BOTSWANA MEAT COMMISSION (BMC) EARLIER THIS MONTH BECAUSE ZCSB UNABLE CONTINUE PAYING WORLD PRICE FOR BEEF. AIA REP SAID BMC SUBSIDIZED ZAMBIA'S BEEF IMPORTS IN 1973 BUT IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR ZCSB AGREED PAY CURRENT WORLD PRICE, WHICH HAS FLUCTUATED WEEK BY WEEK. NOW ZCSB WANTS BMC AGREE TO STEADY PRICE AT LESS THAN WORLD LEVEL. MEANWHILE ZCSB PLANS DRAW DOWN CURRENT TWO TO THREE MONTH STOCK OF BOTSWANA BEEF AND INCREASE SLAUGHTERING OF LOCAL CATTLE.

2. IN ORDER KEEP OPERATING AIA HAS TO HAVE BUSINESS OR CHARGE ITS OTHER MAJOR CLIENTS, COPPER COMPANIES RCM AND NCCM, HIGHER
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RATES FOR AIR SHIPMENT OF MINING EQUIPMENT. NCCM OFFICIALS

INDICATED TO EMBASSY, COMPANIES UNWILLING PAY HIGHER CHARGES AND WILL BRING MINING EQUIPMENT FROM BOTSWANA BY ROAD INSTEAD UNLESS ALTERNATIVE AIR FREIGHT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. INDENI OIL REFINERY HAS AGREED KNOCK OFF ADDITIONAL ONE CENT US PER US GALLON FOR AVIATION FUEL IN ORDER ENABLE AIA CONTINUE OPERATING. ACCORDING AIA REP, THIS NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR LOSS OF MEAT CARGOES. REP SAID AIA HAS HANDLED 16.5 MILLION KILOS OF FREIGHT FOR ZAMBIA SINCE BEGINNING FLIGHTS FEB 1973. ZCSB HAS TAKEN 56 - 58 PERCENT THIS TOTAL, COPPER COMPANIES ABOUT 40 PERCENT, AND OTHER GRZ AJNCIES THE REM-AINDER. BEFORE JUNE AIA FLEW 10 - 13 FLIGHTS WEEKLY FOR ZCSB AND 4 - 5 WEEKLY FOR COPPER COMPANIES.

3. AIA REP CONFIRMED HERCULES AIRCRAFT, CURRENTLY IN OMAN, COULD RETURN EARLY JULY RESUME AIRLIFT IF ZCSB AND BMC AGREE ON NEW PRICE STRUCTURE BY THEN. HOWEVER, IF THERE NO EARLY DECISION, AIA INTENDS COMMIT PLANE TO OMAN PROJECT FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS. ONE OTHER AIA HERCULES ALREADY OPERATING IN OMAN.
WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

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